

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 AID-05

EB-07 IGA-01 AGR-10 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FDRE-00 /102 W

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P R 141310Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3540

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 3226

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, RO

SUBJ: ROMANIAN FLOODS--REQUEST FOR AGRICULTURAL AID

REF: BUCHAREST 3206

1. AGRICULTURE MINISTER ANGELO MICULESCU CALLED IN AMBASSADOR MORNING JULY 14 TO REPORT ON FLOOD IMPACT ON ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE AND REQUEST US ASSISTANCE. GREATEST NEED IS FOR ANIMAL FEED--CORN, BARLEY, SORGHUM OR SOYBEAN MEAL--AND MOST CRITICAL PERIOD WILL BE AGUSUT AND SEPTEMBER. MICULESCU SAID PART COULD BE HANDLED THROUGH CCC CREDITS BUT ASKED FOR AS MUCH AS WE COULD PROVIDE AS OUTRIGHT GRANT. MINISTRY IS ALSO STUDYING SEED NEEDS AND WE EXPECT MORE DETAILS ON SEED REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS FEEDGRAINS IN COMING DAYS. MICULESCU DID NOT RPT NOT REQUEST GRAIN FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, BUT SINCE GOR IS HANDLING ASSISTANCE REQUESTS IN COMPARTMENTALIZED FASHION, SUCH A REQUEST MAY STILL REACH US FROM ANOTHER SOURCE.

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2. MICULESCU SAID CROP LOSSES WERE PARTICULARLY SEVERE BECAUSE FLOODS CAME JUST AT HARVEST TIME FOR WHEAT, BARLEY AND RYE. OF THE APPROXIMATELY 2.4 MILLION HECTARES PLANTED TO THESE CROPS, MORE THAN 10 PERCENT (ABOUT 250,000 HECTARES) HAVE BEEN LOST SO FAR AND TOTAL FINAL LOSS WILL BE HIGHER. FOR CORN, 300,000 HECTARES HAVE BEEN LOST ALREADY, AND MICULESCU EXPECTS AN EQUAL AMOUNT WILL BE LOST IN ADDITION THROUGH INCOMPLETE MATURING, YELLOWING, ETC., RESULTING FROM WATER DAMAGE. TOTAL GRAIN LOSS IS EXPECTED TO REACH ABOUT 1.5 MILLION TONS, MICULESCU SAID.

3. MICULESCU GAVE OTHER LOSSES AS 30,000 HECTARES OF SUGAR BEETS, 20,000 HECTARES OF POTATOES, 20,000 HECTARES OF VEGETABLES, AND 10,000 HECTARES OF GRAPES AND FRUIT. ANIMAL LOSSES ARE ALSO VERY SIGNIFICANT.

4. COMMENT: WHILE FACTS REGARDING THE SITUATION REMAIN TO BE GATHERED

IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT ROMANIA WILL REQUIRE OUT-RIGHT AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE AND THAT THE LEADERSHIP LOOKS PRIMARILY TO THE U.S. IN THAT REGARD. MICULESCU PLACED THE TOTAL FEEDGRAIN SHORTFALL AT 200,000-300,000 AND SAID THAT REQUESTS HAD BEEN ENTERED WITH FAO AND OTHER WORLD FOOD AGENCIES BUT THAT THEIR PROCEDURES WERE TOO SLOW TO HELP AND WOULD TURN TO SURPLUS PRODUCER COUNTRIES IN ANY CASE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLY INDICATION OF WHETHER WE CAN OFFER ANY GRANT ASSISTANCE AND WHAT WE ARE ABLE TO DO UNDER CCC. BARNES

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